



TWENTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HEALTH OF STAFFORD.

F. MILNES BLUMER,

B.A. Dunelm, M.B. & C.M. Edin.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1897.

STAFFORD :

PRINTED BY THOS. D. WHITAKER, 16 & 17, EASTGATE STREET.

Stafford,

19th April, 1898.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my report
on the Health of Stafford for the year 1897.

The general death-rate was very low, viz.,
13·53 per 1000. Only once has a lower rate been
recorded.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. MILNES BLUMER.

REPORT.

SECTION 1.

*Vital Statistics, together with Remarks on the
Mortality during the year.*

SECTION I.
—

Area.—The Borough of Stafford contains an area of Area.
1,084 acres.

Population.—Estimated to the middle of the year 1897, Population.
the population, including the Public Institutions, was 21,665,
and was distributed as follows :—

Stafford Borough	...	...	19,825
County Asylum	...	...	1,011
Workhouse	...	...	288
H.M. Prison	...	...	541
Total in the Institutions	...	...	1,840
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	21,665*

The population gives an average density of 19·98
persons per acre.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the Births
year was 542, of which 279 were males and 263 were females.
This is equal to an annual rate of 26·88 per 1000. These
returns are not only much lower than the average of the
preceding decennium, which is 597 with a rate of 31·2, but
they are lower than those of any year I have been able to
refer to. Twenty years ago, in the years 1877-78-79, the
total births were 740, 748, 732, so that since then the
number has decreased by about 200. In previous reports
I have mentioned some of the causes which may have
brought about this result, and I need not refer to them here.

* The **Corrected Rates** are reckoned upon a population of 20163, obtained
by deducting 1502 from the total, that being the proportion of those in the
Institutions who do not belong to the Borough.

BIRTH RETURNS FROM 1887 TO 1897.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000
1887	330	338	668	33·85
1888	299	291	590	31·17
1889	311	281	592	30·11
1890	286	282	568	29·40
1891	334	264	598	31·92
1892	281	314	595	31·31
1893	290	286	576	30·45
1894	314	329	643	33·74
1895	317	283	600	30·38
1896	329	262	591	29·69
<i>Yearly Average 1887-96</i>	309·1	293	602·1	31·2
1897	279	263	542	26·88

Deaths.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths registered during the year was 451. This includes 268 males and 183 females, and gives a death-rate of 20·81 per 1000. Of this number of deaths 178 were those of persons who did not belong to the Borough previous to their admission into one or other of the Public Institutions. This reduces the number of deaths for the Borough to 273, and gives a **Corrected Death-rate of 13·53.**

Death-rate.

The following Table gives the number of deaths together with the death-rates for the past ten years, and from it it will be seen that the rate this year is not only considerably below the average of previous years, but is lower than that of any recorded year except 1894.

If there is cause for regret in comparing the present Birth Returns with those of twenty years ago, there is certainly also much cause for congratulation if we compare the Death Returns of the last two years with those of the former period, when the corrected number of deaths was 113 more than they are now. The pre-decennial average also has shown an almost uninterrupted steady decline from 16.35 ten years ago to 15.48 at the present time. And this, in turn, shows that the conditions which have brought about this decreased mortality are working progressively for good.

DEATH RETURNS FROM 1887 TO 1897.

Year.	Males.	Females	Total.	Non-Residents.	Residents.	Corrected Rate per 1000
1887	224	167	391	121	270	13.68
1888	252	182	434	110	324	16.97
1889	227	246	473	138	335	17.04
1890	223	174	397	124	273	14.13
1891	245	184	429	139	290	15.48
1892	252	199	451	131	320	16.84
1893	261	222	483	151	332	17.54
1894	225	176	401	163	238	12.48
1895	258	240	498	165	333	16.86
1896	239	171	410	135	275	13.81
<i>Yearly Average 1887-96.</i>	240.6	196.1	436.7	137.7	299	15.48
1897	268	183	451	178	273	13.53

QUARTERLY RETURNS.

1st Quarter, 88	Death-rate 17.45	Quarterly Returns.
2nd „ 80	„ 15.87	
3rd „ 49	„ 9.72	
4th „ 56	„ 11.1	
Average 68.25	Average 13.53	

Infantile Mortality.—There were 76 deaths of infants under a year old, which is equal to a rate of 140 per 1000 registered births. Last year the rate was 101, and the average of the preceding ten years 127. Whooping Cough caused 2 of these deaths; Tubercular Disease, 8; Developmental Diseases, 12; Diseases of the Nervous System, 18; Diseases of the Respiratory System, 20; and all other diseases, 16.

Infantile Mortality.

TABLE SHOWING THE CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATHS IN
EACH OF THE FOUR QUARTERS.

	QUARTERS				TOTALS
	1	2	3	4	
I—ZYMOTIC DISEASES—					
1—Miasmatic Diseases—					
(a) Influenza.....	..	1	..	..	1
(b) Whooping Cough	2	4	1	..	7
(c) Diphtheria	2	..	..	..	2
(d) Typhoid Fever .....	..	..	..	1	1
2—Diarrhoeal Diseases	2	..	..	..	2
3—Septic Diseases	1	..	..	..	1
II—PARASITIC DISEASES.....	..	..	1	..	1
III—DIETETIC DISEASES—Alcoholism	2	1	..	..	3
IV—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES—					
1—Rheumatism .....	..	..	1	..	1
2—Gout.....	..	1	..	..	1
3—Cancer	2	3	2	4	11
4—Tubercular Meningitis	2	1	1	..	4
5—Phthisis	13	22	14	11	60
6—Other forms of Tuberculosis....	2	2	..	..	4
7—Purpura	1	..	..	1	2
8—Anæmia	1	..	1	..	2
9—Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	1	1	4
V—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES—					
1—Premature Birth.....	2	2	1	5	10
2—Atelectasis .....	..	..	1	..	1
3—Other Congenital Defects	1	..	..	..	1
4—Old Age	12	10	5	11	38
VI—LOCAL DISEASES—					
1—Diseases of Nervous System	36	27	22	30	115
2— ,, Circulatory System ..	12	11	12	9	44
3— ,, Respiratory System..	28	22	9	6	65
4— ,, Digestive System....	5	11	6	7	29
5— ,, Urinary System	5	5	1	1	12
6— ,, Organs of Generation ..	..	2	..	..	2
7— ,, Organs of Locomotion	1	..	2	..	3
8— ,, Integumentary System	3	..	1	..	4
VII—VIOLENCE—					
1—Accident or Negligence.....	1	3	1	1	6
2—Suicide.. ..	1	..	..	..	1
VIII—ILL-DEFINED CAUSES—					
1—Debility, Atrophy, Inanition....	1	2	4	3	10
2—Mortification .....	..	1	..	..	1
3—Hæmorrhage .....	..	1	..	..	1
4—Not Specified .....	..	..	1	..	1
	139	133	88	91	451

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CORRECTED DEATHS FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN CHIEF ZYMOTIC DISEASES
IN THE TEN YEARS 1887 TO 1896 AND IN THE YEAR 1897.

Diseases.	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	Average Annual Number of Deaths in the ten years, 1887 to 1896.	Deaths in 1897.
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...
Measles .....	...	1	20	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	4.4	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	1	1	3	2	...	2	.	1	4	1.4	...
Diphtheria .....	...	2	3	...	...	...	1	...	2	5	1.3	1
Whooping Cough	2	10	1	18	2	...	9	...	5	2	4.9	7
Fever { Tyhus.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...
{ Enteric .....	...	...	3	...	...	8	2	1	...	.	1.4	1
{ Continued .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.2	...
Diarrhoeal Diseases.....	7	3	4	2	..	9	14	3	10	4	5.6	2
Total	9	17	34	23	12	17	28	6	28	18	19.2	11
Zymotic Death-rate per 1000 living .....	.45	.88	1.7	1.1	.64	.89	1.4	.31	1.4	.9	.96	.54

Zymotic Diseases.

Zymotic Diseases.

Zymotic Diseases caused only 11 deaths, viz., Diphtheria 1, Whooping Cough 7, Enteric Fever 1, and Diarrhœa 2. This gives a death-rate of .54 per 1000 compared with .96, the rate for the previous ten years. There were no deaths from Smallpox, Measles, or Scarlet Fever.

Constitutional Diseases.

Phthisis.

Phthisis.—The total number of deaths from Phthisis was 60, and the **corrected** number 27, giving a mortality rate of 1.33 per 1000. From the subjoined Table it will be seen that these rates are lower than those of last year, and lower also than the pre-decennial average.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000
1887	37	1.87
1888	37	1.93
1889	35	1.83
1890	45	2.33
1891	27	1.44
1892	31	1.63
1893	26	1.37
1894	24	1.25
1895	43	2.17
1896	29	1.45
Yearly Average 1887-1896	33.4	1.72
1897	27	1.33

Developmental Diseases.

Developmental Diseases.

There have been 50 deaths in this class, as against 54 in the previous year, 10 being ascribed to Premature Birth and 38 to Old Age.

Local Diseases.

Local Diseases.

There were 274 deaths in this class compared with 225 in the previous year. Diseases of the Nervous System

caused 115, Diseases of the Circulatory System 44, Diseases of the Respiratory System 65, Diseases of the Digestive System 29, Diseases of the Urinary System 12, and Diseases of other Systems 9.

SECTION II.

SECTION II.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—There were 156 cases notified, compared with 148 in the previous year.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

	Notified.	Isolated.	Percentage Isolated.
Scarlet Fever ...	110	89*	80·9
Diphtheria	13	...	...
Typhoid Fever...	15	2†	13·3
Erysipelas	17	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...

* Two cases of Scarlet Fever were also treated in the Workhouse Infirmary.

† Two cases of Typhoid were also treated in the Infirmary, one in the Workhouse and one in the Prison.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 110 cases notified, compared with 101 in the previous year. More than half the cases occurred in the first quarter, the monthly returns from January to December being 23, 10, 25, 12, 16, 8, 3, 8, 3, 0, 2, 0. The type of Disease was for the most part mild, and no death occurred from it. Isolation in hospital was resorted to in 80·9 per cent. of the cases, and altogether 85 houses were infected.

Diphtheria.—Of the 13 cases reported 11 occurred at the north end of the town, 2 (in the same house) were contracted away from home, and 1 only was fatal. Except the two cases mentioned, all were sporadic, and occurred in apparently healthy dwellings—artisan houses of a good class, dry, well ventilated, with the town water supply, and all drains outside the houses and disconnected. Nearly all the cases were reported in the first half of the year, only the two imported ones occurring in the second half.

Typhoid Fever.—Most of the cases were reported in the last four months of the year. Eight of them occurred in six houses in North Back Walls, 2 in one house in Eccleshall

road, 1 (an imported case) in H.M. Prison, and the remaining 4 in Tixall road, Lammascotes, Stone road, and Foregate street. I am inclined to think the Backwalls cases were due to the condition of the brook which runs close by the houses, and which, in addition to a pollution received outside the boundary, is continually being fouled by the residents in North Back Walls throwing refuse matter into it. The brook was thoroughly cleaned out, and the sanitary defects of the houses attended to, and no fresh cases have occurred now for four months. An examination of the house in Eccleshall road revealed some serious sanitary defects, among which may be mentioned a direct communication (untrapped) between the bath waste and the drain; the overflow pipe from the cistern running direct into the drain; two catchpits in the cellar, the contents of which simply soaked into the ground, and in this cellar milk and other food was kept. The case in the Prison was contracted out of the district. The remaining four cases could not be traced to any definite source of contamination.

Isolation Hospital.

Isolation Hospital.—Early in the year the accommodation in the Hospital was insufficient, and the wooden annexe had to be opened, additional nurses also being employed for nearly six months. There were 89 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 cases of Typhoid Fever treated, all of which recovered. I paid 190 visits to the Hospital during the year. In the preceding year 93 cases were isolated, and 6 deaths occurred.

Prosecution for Offences against the Public Health Act.

Prosecutions for Offences against the Public Health Act.—A man (F.W.) was prosecuted for (1) selling fish unfit for human food on May 29th, (2) exposing fish for sale which was unfit for human food on May 29th, (3) exposing fish and lemons unfit for food on May 31st. He was convicted on all three counts, and fined £5 and costs, or one month hard labour, on the first count, and a shilling and costs on each of the others. For exposing herself in the street on June 14th, whilst suffering from Scarlet Fever, Mrs. D. was fined twenty shillings and costs.

Insanitary Dwellings.

Insanitary Dwellings.—During the year sixteen houses were reported by me as being unfit for human habitation, and, as a result, seven have been rebuilt, five have been

repaired and made habitable, and four remain closed. In addition, from representations being made, the condition of many other houses has been improved without formal action being necessary.

Sanitary Inspection.—In a tabular statement appended to this report a Summary of the Sanitary Work done during the year in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department is given. The Lodging-houses, Dairies, Cow-sheds, Bake-houses, and Slaughter-houses, have been found for the most part satisfactory. Many of the new slop-water closets have been blocked, but not more than has been the usual experience in other towns during the first year or two of their adoption. Sanitary
Inspection.

Vaccination Statistics.—The subjoined figures apply to the whole of the Stafford Union, but they serve as an index of how the provisions of the Vaccination Act are being carried out : Vaccination
Statistics.

Number of Births registered in 1896	887
Vaccinated	745
Insusceptible	2
Died unvaccinated	73
Postponed	19
Removed to places unknown .	41
Not Vaccinated	7—887

The Statistical Tables required by the Local Government Board are appended.

F. MILNES BLUMER.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE INSPECTOR OF
NUISANCES' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1897, IN THE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF STAFFORD.

					Inspections and Observa- tions.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling- houses and Schools	{	Drains choked			26	26	26
		Structural Defects			51	51	49
		Over crowding .. .. .			...	4	4
		Delapidated yard pavement			...	17	17
		Unfit for habitation...			...	16	16
Lodging-houses					37	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops					76	...	...
Cowsheds					76	...	..
Bakehouses					80	...	..
Slaughter-houses					170	9	9
Delapidated Workshops .. .. .					...	2	1
Ashpits and Privies emptied					1042	6	6
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .. .. .					...	6	6
Water Closets stopped .. .. .					...	30	30
House Drainage	{	Broken Tipper in Slop W.C.			...	1	...
		No disconnection			2	1	...
		Dirty Houses .. .. .			...	7	7
No slop sinks in kitchen... .. .					...	40	31
Animals improperly kept .. .. .					..	25	25
Offensive Trades 1, Stinking Pig Wash 4					...	5	5
Smoke Nuisances					2	2	2
Houses found free from Nuisances ..					661	...	...
Total					2223	248	234

Seizures of Unwholesome Food							NOS. 1
Precautions against Infectious Disease.							
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed							186
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease							72
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...							1
Convictions	ditto		ditto				1

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Stafford Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE																						
	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Fevers					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease		Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
													Typhus	Entericor Typhoid	Contin'd	Relapsing	Puerperal													
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Stafford Borough.....	223	72	18	6	13	61	53	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	1	.....	3	24	1	.....	1	52	90
County Asylum	148	.....	.....	.....	6	116	26	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	20	18	.....	1	76	133
Workhouse	42	4	2	1	4	16	15	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	8	3	7	.....	.....	18	36
Infirmary.....	36	3	3	2	5	20	3	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	7	1	.....	2	3	6
H.M. Prison	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	..	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Totals ..	451	80	23	9	28	214	97	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	2	.....	3	26	1	.....	3	60	103
									.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57	39	43	.....	3	204	348

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records in mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto...	Under 5 5 upwards
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(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1897, in the Stafford Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages		Registered Births	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health											Number of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.		
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1897:		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus Fever	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Continued Fever	Relapsing Fever	Puerperal Fever	Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Typhoid Fever
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Stafford Borough.....	18545	19825	542	...	108	13	...	...	11	...	...	1	...	16	.....	89	2
County Asylum	982	1011	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse	254	288	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Infirmary.....	Included in Borough		...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
H.M. Prison	498	541	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	20279	21665	542	.....	110	13	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	1	.....	17	.....	89	2

“ Notifications of Infectious Diseases ” compulsory in the District since 1880.

The Isolation Hospital is situate in Tillington Parish in Rural District.

